

**Two new hummingbirds for Colombia, Many-spotted Hummingbird *Taphrospilus hypostictus* and Violet-chested Hummingbird *Sternoclyta cyanopectus***

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In recent years the east slope of the Cordillera Oriental of Colombia has yielded both species new to science (Stiles 1992), and many new records and range extensions (e.g. Andrade & Lozano 1997, Salaman *et al.* 2002, Córdoba & Ahumada 2005). For the past decade, ornithologists have been working intensively on this slope, but much remains to be learned. Whilst examining hummingbird specimens recently collected during biodiversity inventories, we found two not previously recorded in Colombia.

The first Colombian specimen (and record) of Many-spotted Hummingbird *Taphrospilus hypostictus* (sometimes placed in *Leucippus*: Schuchmann 1999) concerns a male held in the ornithological collection of the Instituto Alexander von Humboldt (IAvH). Specimen IAvH-A 11344 has left testis of  $2.2 \times 1.6$  mm and was collected by A. M. Umaña, S. Sierra & F. Forero, at Vereda La Esmeralda, on the upper río Yurayaco, municipality of San José de Fragua, dpto. Caqueta, Colombia ( $01^{\circ}20'N$ ,  $76^{\circ}06'W$ ), at 1,000 m, on 5 September 2000. Weight 9 g. Bare parts: iris brown, bill pinkish-rose two-thirds from base of mandible, tip and maxilla black. Tissue sample BT-IAvH 0746 is held in the IAvH Tissue Collection and Molecular Laboratory, CIAT Facility, Palmira, Valle del Cauca, Colombia. The specimen marks a northward range extension for this species of 160 km on the east slope of the Cordillera Oriental of Colombia from the Ecuadorian border. The collecting site lies in steep terrain subtropical forest with a canopy height of 20–22 m, frequent treefall gaps and dense understorey. In Ecuador, it is rare to locally common in foothills on the east slope at 500–1,200 m (Ridgley & Greenfield 2001), but seems commonest in the south, around Zamora.

The second species, Violet-chested Hummingbird *Sternoclyta cyanopectus*, is represented by three specimens (two females and a male), also in IAvH. Specimen IAvH-A 10863 is a male, with left testis  $3.0 \times 2.3$  mm, collected by A. M. Umaña, S. Sierra & M. Álvarez, at Vereda El Diamante, near the río Negro, municipality of Toledo, dpto. Norte de Santander, in the National Natural Park Tamá ( $07^{\circ}07'N$ ,  $72^{\circ}14'W$ ), at 1,100 m, on 26 September 1999. Weight 8 g. Bare parts: iris brown, bill black and feet grey. Tissue sample BT-IAvH 097 is deposited in the IAvH Tissue Collection. Specimen IAvH-A 10893 is a female (no gonad data), collected by A. M. Umaña, S. Sierra & M. Álvarez, at Vereda El Diamante, Cerro San Agustín, municipality of Toledo, dpto. Norte de Santander, in the National Natural Park Tamá ( $07^{\circ}06'N$ ,  $72^{\circ}13'W$ ), at 1,500 m, on 28 September 1999. Weight 4 g. Bare parts as

the previous specimen, but feet dark grey. IAvH-A 10912 is another female, with ovary  $3.9 \times 3.4$  mm, taken by the same collectors, at the same locality as IavHA 10893, at 1,250 m, on 30 September 1999. Weight 7 g. Bare parts as the previous specimen. All three were caught in mist-nets placed inside forest. The species had been expected to occur in Colombia, as it has been recorded near Táchira, Venezuela, close to the border (Hilty & Brown 1986, Heynen 1999). These specimens confirm the species' presence in Colombia, although its range may be restricted to the upper half of the east slope of the Cordillera Oriental, as it has not been reported from other suitable localities already sampled, e.g. Cusiana (Boyacá), Santa María or Medina (Cundinamarca), at altitudes where the species might be expected (Salaman *et al.* 2002, SC pers. obs.). In Venezuela, the species inhabits premontane forest with abundant *Heliconia* spp., occasionally in coffee plantations, at 700–2,000 m (Hilty 2003).

New species for the country may still be awaiting recognition in Colombian natural history collections. A wealth of new data have been published in recent years and study of bird specimens already deposited in such institutions will doubtlessly continue to yield new information using standard and newer methodological tools, such as DNA analysis, if research is promoted.

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